

Application No. 09/997,368
Amendment B & RCF dated December 8, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed October 17, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a system where a user performs a transaction with multiple entities, and wherein one or more of the multiple entities generates a notification that updates a status of the transaction for the user, wherein the method is for coordinating the notifications that are generated by one or more of the multiple entities and sent to the user, the method comprising:

providing a notification interface enabled to send notifications to a user from multiple entities involved in a particular transaction with the user, wherein each of the one or more multiple entities that generates a notification corresponding to the transaction is enabled to communicate with the notification interface in order to send notifications to a user corresponding with the particular transaction and in a coordinated manner;

receiving, at the notification interface, one or more notifications sent from at least one of the multiple entities, the one or more notifications corresponding to the particular transaction, wherein each of the one or more notifications comprises an identifier that enables the notification interface to uniquely identify the user;

identifying the user from the identifier such that each notification may be sent to the user; and

the notification interface sending the one or more notifications to a router, wherein the router upon receiving the one or more notifications determines how to deliver the one or more notifications to the user, and such that the one or more notifications corresponding to the particular transaction are ultimately delivered to the user in a coordinated manner.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the act of providing a notification interface further comprises an act of providing the multiple entities with access to an application programming interface of the notification interface.

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3. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the act of receiving notifications from each of the multiple entities that generated a notification at the notification interface further comprises an act of authenticating each of the multiple entities that sends a notification to the notification interface.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising:
receiving, by at least one of the multiple entities, the identifier from the user; and
accessing the at least one of the multiple entities using an authentication service that authenticates the user.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the notification comprises one or more of:

- an identifier field that contains one of a user identifier or a subscription identifier;
- a content field that contains a status of the transaction;
- an action field that contains an object, wherein the object is a URL;
- a priority field indicating a priority of the notification;
- a category field indicating a category of the notification; and
- an authenticate field that allows a sender of the notification to be authenticated.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 5, further comprising determining how to deliver the notifications to the user by consulting one or more of:

- user preferences, user devices, presence information of the user, the priority field of the notification, and the category field of the notification.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 6, wherein the act of sending the notifications to the user further comprises an act of identifying the user from the user identifier or the subscription identifier.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 7, further comprising delivering, by the router, the notifications to the user.

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9-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the notification includes:

content that updates the user about the transaction; and

wherein the method further includes:

sending each notification to the user according to the determined delivery method determined by the router.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 15, further comprising an act of the notification interface identifying the user from the authentication service using the user identifier.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 15, further comprising an act of the router identifying the user from the authentication service using the user identifier.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 15, wherein the act of consulting, by the router, one or more of user preferences, user status, and user preferences further comprises an act of the router consulting the category and the priority included in the notification to determine a delivery method of the notification.

20. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the notification further comprises:

a category and a priority of the transaction;

an action field that permits the user to take an action regarding the transaction;

and

an authenticate field that enables the notification interface to authenticate the entity that generated the notification;

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21-34. (Cancelled).

35. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more notifications includes a plurality of notifications, each of the plurality of notifications being received from a different one of the multiple entities.

36. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 35, wherein the plurality of notifications are standardized prior to being sent to the user.

37. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 35, wherein the method further includes at least one of the multiple entities passing the identifier to at least one additional entity of the multiple entities, prior to the at least one additional entity sending a notification to the notification interface.

38. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the router determines which of a plurality of user devices to send the notifications to, the plurality of user devices including at least one of a desktop computer, cellular telephone, pager, personal digital assistant, internet terminal, or facsimile.

39. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more notifications are a plurality of notifications that cover the transaction from beginning to end in a coordinated fashion.

40. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the same identifier is used by each of the one or more multiple entities.